



NEWSLETTER



c/o Neighborhood Commission Office ? 530 S. King Street, Room 400 ? Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

May 2001

Chair's Message *by Grant Tanimoto*

We are well into 2001, so it may be a bit late to be wishing all of you a Happy New Year. But the 4th of July is rapidly approaching and some reminders of the New Year will be upon us. Our skies may soon be filled with illegal aerial fireworks. But, before lighting these fireworks remember the tragic death of the woman in Palolo whose home was gutted by a fire started by illegal aerial fireworks. We live in a residential neighborhood. Think about your neighbors (many of them with shake roofs) who could suffer a similar fate.

The results were recently posted for all 32 Neighborhood Boards. We thank all the candidates and voters and welcome back returning Board members Mark Taylor, Howard Shima, Chester Koga, Lenn Pepper, Minnie Brazell, and Bill Tangonan. There also have been some changes in our Board. Kenneth Sprague, a long time board member, did not run for reelection. Kenn also retired as the City Director of Environmental Services. Former Board member Bill Brennan moved to California. Mahalo Kenn and Bill for your service to the community! We also welcome aboard new Board members, Martin Romualdez and Rudy Baas.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch . . . Is there anyone who is not busy? There are so many activities going on in our community. In this issue we discuss some of these activities and highlights from the Board's meetings, and provide an update on how we are faring with our community priorities (which we identified in last year's newsletter).

The boys and girls of summer The "pinging" sound you've been hearing from metal bats means that baseball season is back. Many of our children are playing baseball for the City and County of Honolulu's Police Activity League (PAL), which has two franchises in our community - Lakeside Athletic and Youth Activities (LAYA) and the Moanalua Athletic Club. Baseball, basketball, and volleyball teams are sponsored by these franchises. HPD officers are assigned to administer these sports programs. These programs and other community activities take on greater importance in light of some disturbing news at the Board's February 2001 meeting: youth gangs are recruiting children in our neighborhood. While the gangs aren't making the same kind of headlines they did in prior years that doesn't mean that they have gone away. If there's any good news regarding this item, HPD is aware

2001 Community Priorities

By Len Pepper, Vice-Chair

Your Neighborhood Board endorsed the following community priorities for 2001:

- ? Continue to advocate for rapid completion of the remaining sections for Salt Lake Boulevard widening.
- ? Advocate for underground utility wiring, including support of clarification of existing financing the mechanisms and development of new mechanisms, if necessary.
- ? Participate in Vision Team efforts to improve our community.
- ? Work with schools, businesses, churches, military organizations, and individuals to increase involvement in community life.
- ? Find ways to increase community involvement in Board meetings and activities.

of it and has been working with our schools to address the situation. At the same meeting, HPD also announced that they are actively enforcing the curfew laws.

Group care homes Group care homes, generally, are not regulated. Research is being done regarding the number of group care homes currently in our community, to determine whether our community has more than its "fair share" of these homes.

Roosters draw complaints Crowing roosters were discussed at the Board's September 2000 meeting. The Board was advised that a family is allowed to keep two roosters as pets, but not for commercial purposes. Moreover, the pen for the roosters cannot be located in the setback area. Art Challacome from the Department of Planning and Permitting addressed these zoning questions. Complaints regarding the noise from roosters are handled in the same manner as the noise from barking dogs said Charles Duncan, Enforcement Officer at the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Community Priorities

In last year's newsletter, community priorities were identified (completion of Salt Lake Boulevard widening, underground utility wiring, participation in vision team efforts, and working to

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Community Visioning Process

by Kenn Sprague

The wheels of progress in our community visioning process continue to move. We have the bids open for the first project from the 1st years budget, FY 1999-2000 improvements to the makai portion of Salt Lake District Park. We provided additional funds for FY 00/01 and are asking for additional funds in the upcoming FY 01/02 budget. Larry Baird and Grant Tanimoto are the champions for this project.

Our vision is being helped substantially by our Councilmember Romy Cachola who has put \$1.5 million into the FY 01/01 budget to construct a walkway along the waterway connecting the mauka and makai sections of the park, while preserving and enhancing the shoreline ecosystem. The vision community has added \$301,000 to provide for completion of environmental documents, preparation of design and bidding documents, and land costs, if any. Kenneth Kanehiro is the champion for this project. Also in the FY 01/02 vision request is \$1,017,000 for Planning, Design and Construction of various improvements within the District Park. Grant Tanimoto is the champion for this project.

We expect to start the dredging of the waterway in Salt Lake within the next two months to improve the water quality within the lake. An additional \$150,000 is being requested for next year to continue the improvements. Max Muraoka and Kenn Sprague are the Champions for this project.

In order to give the residents of our vision district the opportunity to identify traffic problems and locations within each of the neighborhood areas and to participate in determining possible solutions, Councilmember Romy Cachola has put \$125,000 to fund planning including a number of charettes. The vision team is adding \$150,000 of follow on design money to start implementation process. Hiroko Nakamura is the Champion.

Ronald Jones is the Champion for the planning, design and construction of the regreening of Ala Mahamoe Street which will replant appropriate street trees along the entire length of the street. Dan Takamatsu, a retired Dept. of Parks and Recreation employee, has given invaluable assistance on this project which will be funded next year for \$170,000.

While details are being worked out on cost sharing for the under grounding of utilities in our area (won't it be great to be rid of all of those unsightly poles and wires!) Funds in the amount of \$50,000 are being provided to continue to explore the best way to develop the connections from the utility to the buildings being serviced. Mark Taylor is the Champion.

A long term desire of the community is reaching agreement with the City and the Navy cooperating to install street lights on Arizona Road to improve visibility and safety for pedestrians and vehicles due to the great

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efforts, and working to increase community involvement). We are making progress in all of these areas.

Arizona Road Street Lights

Arizona Road which runs along the Moanalua/Salt Lake Library from Salt Lake Blvd. has been a concern for Neighborhood Board No. 18. This is because it is a narrow substandard road built many years ago without the usual infrastructure of street lights, sidewalks, curbs and gutters. We considered it a relatively hazardous road to travel on.

In 1998, through the efforts of Senator Norman Sakamoto, the U.S. Navy Construction Battalion in partnership with the legislature, improved Arizona Road by constructing sidewalks and guardrails. This was a major improvement in making the road much safer for pedestrians.

Now, Senator Sakamoto is spearheading a plan to install streetlights on what is presently a dark and gloomy road at night. The Senator has coordinated meetings between Navy and City and County officials to determine engineering and technical requirements to install street lighting on Arizona Road.

These improvements will further alleviate the safety concerns our board has had for users of this much traveled road. Thank you very much, Senator Sakamoto!

Ala Napunani Street Roundabout

By Howard Shima

At the October 12, 2000 board meeting, Michael Oshiro and Harrison Rue of the Department of Transportation Services (DTS), showed drawings of the proposed roundabout at the intersection of Ala Napunani Street and Likini Street. This roundabout is a traffic calming measure to slow down traffic to make it safer for pedestrians. Previously, DTS had offered a double roundabout, at Ala Ilima Street as well as at Likini Street. Following expression of concerns on backing of traffic, the roundabout at Ala Ilima Street was eliminated.

This roundabout will permit fire trucks, emergency vehicles and buses to move in and out of the roundabout. It will slow traffic near the school area to make it safer for students but it will not improve the flow of traffic making left turns or going straight from Ala Ilima Street. Neither will it improve left turns from Ala Napunani into Ala Ilima Street. It was disclosed that studies have shown that there are 90 percent less fatal accidents when a roundabout is constructed.

Concerns were raised on how much traffic will be slowed. After much discussion, the board moved and voted unanimously to support a single roundabout at Likini Street. The motion also stipulated that if there are problems, DTS would come up in a second phase to restrict traffic movements at Ala Ilima and then if necessary, a third phase to signalize Ala Ilima and Ala Napunani Streets.

Design is scheduled to be completed in September 2001 with bidding to follow. The Board intends to have a discussion regarding the design plans at a future board meeting.

Salt Lake Boulevard, Phase 2

The widening of Salt Lake Boulevard from Bougainville to Maluna is back on track after discussions between the City, State, and Federal Government, including the Navy. This is a half mile

project costing \$23 to \$25 million. The concerns that the Navy had regarding the flow of water on the Navy property from the road widening have been resolved. Utility wires will be placed underground and residents who live on Salt Lake Boulevard will not have to pay a "hook-up" charge. The landscaping for this phase will be consistent with the landscaping for the prior phase of the road widening.

The following schedule was discussed at the Board's April 2001 meeting: (1) On March 20, 2001, the City sent out letters to homeowners on the Mauka side requesting signatures on an agreement for right of entry. (2) On May 31, 2001, plans, specifications, and estimates were due for submittal to the State Department of Transportation. (3) In mid-June, issues will be discussed with the Navy, including easements, landscaping, and the utility corridor. (4) In mid-June, it is anticipated that easement documents will be approved in Washington. (5) In mid-November, bids are scheduled. (7) In March 2002, the notice to proceed will be issued. The scheduled completion date is August 31, 2003. The anticipated duration of the construction period is one and a half years.

The Board also has been monitoring the construction of roundabouts to reduce speeding and improve traffic safety; the widening of Puuloa Road; and the placement of lights on Arizona Road.

Underground utility Wiring

A representative of the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) was present at the Board's March 2001 meeting to discuss HECO's new policy to convert overhead lines to underground lines as part of a community or government initiated project. HECO will pay for up to one-third of the cost. This new policy, however, does not affect 138,000-volt transmission lines or other high voltage electrical lines. Other utilities (e.g., cable), however, will consider the conversion of overhead lines to underground lines on a "case-by-case" basis.

The under-grounding of utilities also is a priority for the community vision team, which has allocated funds to work on this issue.

Community Vision Team

Last year, neighbors, including several Board members, developed a vision statement for our community "an oasis at the crossroads of urban and rural Honolulu." Allocating \$2 million to the team and allowing the team to determine the priorities for planning and

completing different projects would accomplish this vision. Work continues on these projects (e.g., improving Salt Lake District Park, cleaning up the Salt Lake waterway, and beautifying Salt Lake Boulevard).

In April 2001, Mayor Harris announced that he wants the vision team to address long-range plans and projects to realize the vision, goals and values of the community. He also asked the Neighborhood Boards, including, our Board, to address public service improvements to provide safe and clean neighborhoods (e.g., sidewalk repairs, street repairs, street light installation, parks maintenance and improvements, public safety improvements, and traffic signal changes). Thus, beginning in August 2001, the Board, under Mayor Harris' plan, will begin reviewing improvement projects based on neighborhood priorities.

Working to increase community involvement

The Board normally meets at Aliamanu Intermediate School. During the past year, we had meetings at Moanalua High School and Radford High School to increase community involvement. We also televised one of the Board's meetings and continue to issue an annual newsletter.

But there still is much to be done. After we take a deep breath we will refocus and continue our efforts serving in an advisory role to government agencies (helping neighbors with questions or concerns) and providing agencies with input from the community.

We look forward to seeing more of you at our meetings. Alternatively, you may write or call the Board, care of the Neighborhood Commission office at 523-4815 or click on to the Board's website at www.co.honolulu.hi.us/nco/nb18 for the Board's roster, meeting agenda, and minutes.

2001 has been an exciting year so far with much more in store for us. I hope that all you have a happy and safe 4th of July and wish you health and prosperity in 2001.

Akamai Water Read

Minnie Brazell, Chair, Communication

The Board of Water Supply has established an Automatic Meter Reading Program where there will be a reduction of your estimated water bill. The object of this AkamaiRead is to eventually eliminate all estimated water bills.

The Board of Water Supply contracted with Sensus Technologies, a company that specializes in developing meter systems and manufacturing meters. Mega Construction, a local company who contracted with Sensus Technologies, is actually doing all the installations and adjusting the meters. All of you should have received your letters from the Board of Water Supply and should have had your AkamaiRead meters installed.

This AkamaiRead will also reduce the need of employees hired to do the water reading. All that is necessary is one employee to drive by your residence and your water meter will automatically be read.

NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEETING

JOIN US AT OUR BOARD MEETINGS ON THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7 P.M. AT THE ALIAMANU INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CAFETORIUM.

For information or to be placed on the mail list to receive minutes and agendas, call the Neighborhood Commission Office at 523-4380.

Visioning Process *(continued from page 2)*

efforts of Senator Norman Sakamoto who is the Champion. \$56,000 is being provided to supplement the cooperative contributions of the U.S. Navy and the Dept. of Facilities Maintenance from the City.

A vision we share with several other communities is the desire for appropriate signage to identify and mark the entrances to neighborhood communities. To ensure that sufficient funds are available and to provide for land acquisition when necessary, we are asking for \$101,000 in next year's budget. Ronald and Pat Jones are our Champions.

Our final project has been in concept and design for over a year. With all the decisions made, we hope to see construction on the Salt Lake Boulevard Enhancement project within the near future. Howard Shima and Len Pepper lead the list of Champions on the project that will eliminate the concrete canyon look of the Salt Lake end of the Boulevard and have more nearly match the newly widened end at the Radford High School end.

Puuloa Road Widening Project

Update:

Scope of Work: The project consists of widening the existing roadway from 2 to 5 lanes (3 makai and 2 mauka lanes); reconstructing Salt Lake Boulevard intersection; relocating existing utilities; constructing bike lanes, sidewalks, curb and gutters, drainage systems, and retaining walls; and installing highway lighting, landscaping, pavement markings and signing.

Estimated Cost of Improvements: \$21,200,000 for construction.

Status: 85% complete. Right of way is estimated to be completed by the end of August 2001. Grading on Navy property is required to reduce the retaining wall heights. HDOT is pursuing the federal land transfer through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a federal land transfer between the Navy and FHWA will be accomplished by a Record of Categorical Exclusion (RCE).

Estimated Schedule: Project completed March 2004.

Federal Detention Center

Minnie Brazell, Chair, Communication

As you might all know, there is a Federal Detention Center being built on Elliott Street, near the back gate to Hickam Air Force Base and on the grounds near Aloha Airline Terminal at Honolulu International Airport. This Detention Center will have six hundred and seventy bed spaces. The Board was told by Mr. Joe Booker, the new Warden, there will be 200 bed spaces for local prisoners here, if needed. Mr. Booker, who comes from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas has been with the Federal Prison System for many years.

Mr. Booker is planning on having an open house sometime in May for the community. There will also be job opportunities for the ones seeking employment. The requirement would be three weeks of security training on the mainland for the ones who are chosen to work in the Detention Center.

ALIAMANU/SALT LAKE/FOSTER VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 18

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